

THE WEEKLY SUNBEAM.

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AN OLD MAN'S REMINISCENCES.

My dear boys:

When I came up to see your school and leave my boy there, I could not help thinking of the day, when I first started off to school in the year— well never mind, it was more years ago than I care to remember. What a difference and what an improvement since those days. I can picture the scene as if it were yesterday. I was seven years old, and small for my age. Our dress consisted of very tight jacket and trousers and a very large turn down collar, and clothes were made so tight that a boy hardly had the use of his limbs. We lived about forty miles from London, England, and at five o'clock in the morning I was awake and proceeded to dress and go down stairs where I swallowed a cup of coffee, although my tears at leaving home nearly choked me, and then said Good-bye. My mother's face comes up to me as she kissed me and said: "You'll hear and see a great deal that is good; and a great deal that is bad. Try and never do or say anything that I should be ashamed of my boy doing or saying." How often those words have risen up to my mind through all my life. Well, I did not want our coachman to see me crying, so I ran into the carriage where my father was already sitting, in which we were to drive to the nearest town where I could take the coach for London, where I was to be received

by a friend of my father's and *forwarded* like a parcel to Northamptonshire, where the school was. No cars steam-heated then boys! When I see some of you in this California climate going shuddering about saying "Oh! how cold it is," I wonder what you would have said to traveling on the top of a coach at six in the morning with the thermometer a good deal below freezing, I know before I had gone five miles on the top of the *Alacrity* as the coach was called, I couldn't have told you if I had any feet or legs for they hadn't the slightest feeling in them. At nine o'clock we stopped for breakfast, and oh! the pain of circulation coming back to my limbs. I felt very grand as I went in and ordered my breakfast, and highly indignant when the landlady stooped down and kissed me. You see I considered myself quite a man that day.

At one we stopped for dinner and by that time I was feeling pretty sleepy as I had had such a short night's rest and then the open air and all so I fell fast asleep as soon as I was on the coach again and slumbered peacefully till I was awake by the guard shaking me and saying this is London.

I suppose there are some things one never can forget; I know I never shall my first view of London. The noise the bustle the shops all blazing with light, almost to my mind like an enchanted scene.

To be continued

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MERCURY, AN EVENING STAR.

A specially favorable opportunity for seeing Mercury as evening star occurs during the month of April. He reaches his greatest eastern elongation or most distant point from the sun, on the 25th, and at that time, and for a week before and after, may be picked up by any painstaking observer. Beside being at his greatest distance from the sun, he is high up in the north, and near the Pleiades, a well-known cluster of stars. Mercury on the 25th sets an hour and three-quarters after the sun. Observers should commence the search for the shy planet three-quarters of an hour after sun-set, about half-past seven o'clock. They will easily find the Pleiades or Seven Stars in the north-west. Taking this cluster for a guide, they must carefully scan the sky for a short distance, a degree and three-quarters south of the cluster, and a little west. A bright star, after patient observation, will suddenly start into

being, shining with a peculiar lustre on the glowing twilight sky. This star is the planet Mercury, the nearest to the sun, the smallest and the most fleet-footed of his family of worlds. Sometimes he shines with a rosy light, sometimes he takes on a white colour like Sirius, sometimes he appears in a tint of decided gold, and oftentimes, unlike the other planets, he is a decided twinkler.

Before the 25th he must be looked for farther south, and after the 25th further north. Mercury eludes observation with the telescope as well as with the unaided eye. At the beginning of the present century observers fancied that certain spots on his disc indicated a rotation on his axis in about the same time as the earth, that Mercurian mountains rose to the height 12 miles; that the planet was surrounded by a dense atmosphere, and that his form was not exactly spherical. But the powerful telescopes of the present day have not confirmed these observations, and thus far astronomers have been able to find out little concerning the planet that is almost hidden in a perpetual blaze of sunlight.—*Youth's Companion*.

THE PUZZLER.

CHARADE.

Those who have me do not wish for me;
Those who have me do not wish to lose me:
Those who gain me have me no longer?

CONUND RUMS.

1. Why is a worn-out shoe like Greece?
2. Why is swearing aloud like an old coat?
3. What is the best way to kill ants?

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ANSWERS.

CHARADE.

April, 1)

CONUNDRUMS.

1. A fountain.
2. Because it is far fetched and full of non-sense.
3. No cow has eight legs.
4. To keep off the chaps.
5. Her-shell (Herschell).
6. A very pretty farmer's daughter!
7. Dizzy paid!
8. When a pun became apparent (a parent)

LOCAL NEWS.

—:O:—

Mrs. Lubeck accompanied by J. A. Landsborough went to San Francisco on Wednesday.

Col. and Mrs. Wilson paid their children a visit the early part of the week.

The Easter Holiday Pleasure Seekers went to San Francisco in a body but returned in sections.

Monday Section:—Mr. James, John Torrence, W. and D. Taylor, C. Wiley W. Catton, and K. Gray minus Drake and a watch.

Tuesday Section:—Miss G. Landsborough, Miss I. Greene, and F. Lewis.

Wednesday Section:—Alone and after toiling wearily through the Shellville mud, Miss Alice Winter.

Thursday Section:—Misses B. and L. Tilden.

Mr. J. W. Wilson has been industri-

ously plying the paint brush this past week, and the house now presents a whiteness befitting this Easter season.

Prof. Heymanson is glad that Easter holidays don't come oftener; they are not at all conducive to advancement in musical studies.

Master George Whitney went to the city Thursday afternoon.

The creek rose to a great height last Tuesday, higher than it has been doing for the past three or four years.

Willie Taylor's boat will soon be ready for a sail down the stream.

It is our painful duty to announce, the sudden demise of our last acquisition in the dog line:—Sullivan, unfortunately for his peace of mind and body he never quite succeeded in winning the friendship of his fellow canines while with us, so his brief stay here was one long and exciting fight for supremacy. His last and fiercest encounter was on Thursday evening with our non-combative friend Doctor, who would have fared very badly if his assailant had not been dragged away by sheer force. He was enticed to a lonely part of the creek, and when we heard the sharp crack of a shot-gun ring out on the night air we realized that all was over. His remains were consigned to a watery grave with due solemnity.

One by one our canines leave us;

One by one our pups depart

Some are drowned, some are given,

The last was riddled to the heart.

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FUN.

A JOKE ON THE DOCTOR

A good joke was unconsciously got
off recently on a Springfield physician.
In arranging a patient's broken leg he
connected it with a tackle having a
flat-iron as a compensating weight, and
told the man's wife to let it stay there
until his return. But she wanted that
iron the next day bad, and in her re-
placed the iron glowing hot on the
tackle. He came in, examined the
leg, took up the hot iron. It dropped
like lead, and the man of physic went
on in an impromptu can-can, unequal-
ed only by the vigorous use he made of
his tongue. There was music there
for half an hour, and he thinks yet
that the woman put up a job on him.

A little boy of four was sleeping with
his brother, when his mother said:
"Why, Tommy, you are lying right in
the middle of the bed; what will poor
Harry do?" "Well, ma," he replied,
"Harry's got both sides."